

Pike Committee Subpoenas U.S. Data on Mideast, Cyprus

By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

Tired of what its chairman described as empty promises of cooperation, the House intelligence committee yesterday hurriedly subpoenaed U.S. intelligence assessments bearing on the 1973 war in the Middle East and the 1974 Turkish invasion of Cyprus.

Chairman Otis G. Pike (D-N.Y.) sent process-servers yesterday afternoon to the White House, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency and the National Security Agency with subpoenas ordering the production of a wide array of documents by 10 this morning when the committee planned to begin hearings on the quality of American spywork.

White House officials said last night that most of the subpoenaed documents would be in the committee's hands by this morning although many documents still would be classified secret. They said they hoped, however, that Pike would not press for all of the National Security Council's estimates and reports to the President concerning the 1973 and 1974 crises.

"That comes awfully close to direct communications with the President," said White House lawyer Roderick Hills, indicating that the NSC documents would not be surrendered.

Pike said the investigation

will begin with a look at what the intelligence apparatus was saying about the Middle East in late September and early October, 1973, just before the outbreak of the Arab-Israeli War.

The committee scheduled a similar hearing Friday on intelligence predictions surrounding the 1974 Turkish invasion of Cyprus.

"I don't particularly enjoy these confrontations one bloody bit," Pike said yesterday morning as the committee met to authorize issuance of the subpoenas by an 8-to-0 vote. "But we are not going to be put aside by these people who don't respond to our letters."

With Rep. David C. Treen (R-La.) abstaining, the committee also approved subpoenas for U.S. intelligence estimates before the 1968 Tet offensive in South Vietnam and before the recent coup in Portugal, but the summonses issued yesterday did not cover these events.

With a grin, Pike confirmed that the NSA had been "right" about the outbreak of Arab-Israeli hostilities. The committee accordingly restricted its NSA subpoena to that agency's reports concerning Greece, Turkey and Cyprus during July and August of 1974.

Speaking for the White House, Hills said later that

Hills said many of the daily intelligence briefings from the CIA and other agencies would remain classified for the moment because they include "direct quotes from sources."

Pike said he felt "an awful lot of what is very highly classified should not and need not be classified at all." He told reporters that the committee began trying to get some of the documents as long ago as Aug. 17.

"They are very careful not to refuse," he protested. "They always say, 'We are going to cooperate with you fully in your inquiry,' but the pieces of paper never seem to arrive."

Hills said he hoped "the classification problem" could be worked out. "We do understand his frustration in trying over the past couple of weeks to get this material, but it's very complicated," Hills said.

Witnesses at today's hearing on the 1973 Arab-Israeli War are expected to include Ray Cline, former director of the State Department Bureau of Intelligence and Research and former deputy director for intelligence at the CIA. Representatives of the NSA and the DIA also are scheduled to testify.



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